

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner:

rejected claims 1 and 5-8 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Eguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,643);

objected to claims 2-4 and 9-10, indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and

indicated that Fig. 1 should be designated as Prior Art.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 5-8 as being obvious in view of Eguchi, Applicants respectfully submit that Eguchi is not prior art under §§ 102(a), 102(b) or 102(e). Eguchi was filed in the U.S. on April 9, 2003, published February 5, 2004, and issued August 10, 2004. The present application was filed in the U.S. on June 26, 2003, claiming priority from Danish Application PA 2002 01018, filed June 30, 2002. Thus, Eguchi is not prior art under §§ 102(a), 102(b) or 102(e) and it is improper to cite to Eguchi under § 103(a). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and forbear from relying on Eguchi as prior art.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 2-4 and 9-10 contain allowable subject matter. In light of the above response, Applicants decline, at this time, to rewrite these claims in independent form.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to FIG. 1, Applicants have amended FIG. 1 to include the words "Prior Art."

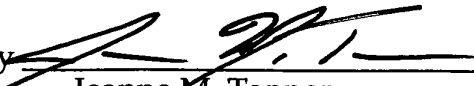
Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to dispose of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

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Response dated Nov. 23, 2004
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Applicants believe that no fees are due at this time. However, if any fee deficiencies exist, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please accept the following amendment to FIG. 1:

The label "Prior Art" has been added to FIG. 1.

A copy of Replacement Sheet 1/5 is attached herewith.